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'Weeks' needed to learn cause of ex-agent's death

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The Virginia medical examiner's office said yesterday it may take weeks to determine the cause of death of Kevin Mulcahy, a former CIA analyst whose body was found two days ago outside a Shenandoah Valley motel room.

But Mulcahy's brother, Brian, and Commonwealth Attorney William Logan Jr. said the medical examiner told them Mulcahy was suffering from bronchitis, bronchial pneumonia and advanced emphysema when he died.

Mulcahy, 39, who worked for the CIA from 1963 to 1968, had been expected to testify next month in the trial of renegade ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson, who faces charges of supplying explosives to the Libyan government and operating a terrorist training camp there.

Dr. James Beyer, who conducted an autopsy on Mulcahy yesterday at the Fairfax County Hospital, would say only that the "cause and manner (of death) are being carried as pending" until completion of additional tests and drug and chemical analyses on tissue samples.

Beyer said the tests "may take a number of days or weeks."

Brian Mulcahy also said Beyer found that the alcohol level in his brother's blood was 0.11 percent, high enough to be considered drunk under Virginia's highway laws.

(Meanwhile, an ex-Green Beret, who worked for CIA renegade Edwin Wilson, says he believes Kevin Mulcahy was murdered to prevent court testimony about Wilson's alleged Libyan terrorist training operation.

"Immediately I knew that he was killed to keep from testifying before the trial that's coming up in Houston," former Green Beret Luke Thompson told CBS News yesterday.

(But Mulcahy's father, Donald Mulcahy, said he doubts his son was murdered.)

Late yesterday, FBI spokesman Roger Young said the agency had opened an investigation into the possibility that Mulcahy had been murdered, although there were no initial indications of foul play.

Mulcahy's body was found at 8:05 a.m. Tuesday slumped outside the locked door of Cottage 1 at the Country View Motel in Edinburgh, Va. His truck was parked nearby.

"It looked like he got out of the truck, went over and sat down on the porch and died," said Gary Dalton, a Shenandoah County deputy sheriff, who found Mulcahy.

"There was no inkling whatsoever. No trauma to the body, no marks, no nothing that indicated foul play."

Dalton said 12 wine bottles, 11 of them empty, were found inside Mulcahy's cabin. Logan said another bottle of wine was found in Mulcahy's pocket.

Mulcahy became the second poten-

tial witness in Wilson's trial to die this year.

Rafael Villaverde disappeared from a boat near the Bahamas in March when an explosion ripped through the craft, sinking it. The Coast Guard never found any traces of Villaverde, and his death was ruled an accident.

Mulcahy left the CIA in 1968 to work in the electronics industry.

In 1976, he accepted a position as head of Inter-Technology, an export firm established by Wilson and Frank Terpil, another former CIA agent.

He broke with Wilson and Terpil later that year, contacting the CIA and FBI, saying he had been asked to purchase a heat-seeking missile from General Dynamics Corp. for Libya.

Mulcahy apparently feared the missile might be used in a terrorist attack on a commercial airliner.

Although he had cooperated with federal agents and testified before a grand jury, Mulcahy had never testified against Wilson in open court.

Wilson, a covert CIA agent from 1955 to 1970, is being held in lieu of \$60 million bond and is to stand trial on arms charges in Alexandria on Nov. 15, Washington on Nov. 22 and in Houston on Nov. 29.

Terpil is a fugitive wanted on a federal indictment since 1980.

A funeral Mass for Mulcahy will be offered at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale.